AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A sign comprising a surface having a perimeter and an illuminated design coupled thereto, said sign comprising:

a first electrode formed on said sign surface, said first electrode having a first lead that extends to a perimeter of said sign surface;

a dielectric layer;

a luminescent layer;

a second electrode, having a second lead that extends to said perimeter of said sign surface;

an interconnect tab portion located at said perimeter of said sign surface and supporting at least a portion of at least one of said first and second leads; and

a connector configured for releasably mating with said interconnect tab portion and for providing electrical power to said first electrode and said second electrode, wherein said connector includes a key pin for aligning the connector with the interconnect tab portion.

2. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said connector includes a locking pin for locking said connector to said surface of said sign.

3. (Currently cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with claim 1 wherein said connector includes contacts for said first electrode and said second electrode.

5. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with claim 4 wherein said connector includes a key positioned between said contacts for said first electrode and said second electrode such that said connector is mountable to said interconnect tab portion in a proper alignment.

6. (Previously presented) A sign comprising a surface and an illuminated design coupled thereto, said sign comprising:

a first electrode formed on said sign surface, said first electrode defining a first perimeter;

a dielectric layer screen printed onto said first electrode and sign surface, said dielectric layer being substantially aligned with said first electrode and defining a dielectric perimeter, the dielectric perimeter extending beyond the first perimeter of the first electrode,

a phosphor layer formed on said dielectric layer and substantially aligned with said first electrode, the phosphor layer defining a second perimeter, the dielectric layer perimeter extending beyond the second perimeter of said phosphor layer to define an exposed dielectric layer;

a sealing layer formed on at least a portion of said exposed dielectric layer to electrically seal the dielectric layer;

a conductor layer substantially aligned with said phosphor layer and defining a third perimeter;

an outlining electrode formed onto the sealing layer and substantially circumscribing at least one of said second perimeter and third perimeter, said outlining electrode being configured to transport energy to said conductor layer,

an interconnect tab portion having a male end and a connector for releasably mating with said interconnect tab portion and for providing electrical power to said first electrode and said outlining electrode.

7. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said connector includes a locking pin for locking said connector to said surface of said sign.

8. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said connector includes a key pin for aligning the connector with said interconnect tab portion.

9. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with claim 6 wherein said connector includes contacts for said first electrode and said outlining electrode.

10. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with claim 9 wherein said connector includes a key positioned between said contacts for said first electrode and said outlining electrode such that said connector is mountable to said interconnect tab portion in a proper alignment.

11. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said first electrode comprises a rear electrode, said rear electrode being screen printed on said substrate as a forward Image.

12. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least one of said first electrode and said outlining electrode is comprised of silver particles.

13. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said dielectric layer is comprised of barium-titanate particles, and wherein said sealing layer comprises a barrier to prevent silver migration between said first electrode and said outlining electrode.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said interconnect tab portion has one or more locking holes spaced from the male end for receiving the locking pin.

16. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said interconnect tab portion has a key slot on the male end for receiving the key pin.

17. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said interconnect tab portion is defined by a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from the sign perimeter to define a male end, and said connector is configured to extend into said slots for releasably mating with said interconnect tab portion.

18. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said interconnect tab portion supports at least a portion of said first lead and at least a portion of said second lead in a spaced relationship.

19. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said interconnect tab portion supports at least a portion of said first electrode and at least a portion of said outlining electrode in a spaced relationship.